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THE COMMON CAUSE

OF HUMANITY.

The Organ of the National Union of

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE SOCIETIES.

NON-PARTY. | ***Societies and Branches in the Union* 602.** | **LAW-ABIDING.**

VOL. VI., No. 279.] FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 1914. [PRICE 1D.
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WOMEN! YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU!

Let us show ourselves worthy of Citizenship, whether our claim to it be recognised or not.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

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The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is a great association of men and women banded together for the single purpose of obtaining the Parliamentary vote for women on the same terms as it is or may be granted to men. It was founded in 1867, and now numbers over 52,000 annually-subscribing members, organised into 602 Societies and Branches, under the presidentship of Mrs. Henry Fawcett. The colours of the Union are SCARLET, WHITE, and GREEN. Among its members are people of all parties, and people of none. The cause that unites them is the cause of Women's Suffrage, and they work for victory by peaceful methods only. They utterly repudiate methods of violence and rely on political pressure and the education of public opinion. WILL YOU JOIN?

Notes and Comments.

Our Common Cause.

The Societies of the National Union are responding in magnificent style to the national need, and it is good to know that all their 52,000 members may now consider themselves members of the "Active Service League," and work together to promote the common cause of the whole human family at this calamitous time. Our organisation is democratic. People sometimes fear that, in times of crisis, a democratic organisation will go to pieces. But the strength of such an organisation is the strength of a living and growing thing, and the instant response of the Societies to the patriotic call for service has demonstrated the vitality of a great free movement.

A union organised for one political purpose finds some difficulty in turning that organisation to the relief of suffering, and there was much that was attractive in the notion that the Union should undertake special branches of work of its own. But it was felt that there would be prodigious waste of effort in attempting the organisation of any specialised institution, and also that the risk of overlapping with other established institutions would be great. Moreover, at this national crisis, the Union did not wish for separation of any sort. The widely expressed desire was to throw the gifts and efforts and sacrifices of the members into the common stock. Therefore the resolve to offer the organisation as an organisation to the local authorities in whose hands relief work will be placed.

Organisation.

Experience has already demonstrated a few dangers into which the most willing people are likely to run. The value of proper organisation is very great. It is better to go a little slowly, and see that work is orderly and appropriate, than to rush into impulsive action which has no proportionate result. It is, generally speaking, wise to stay at home and do the regular, necessary work that comes to hand. It is important not to start fresh organisations without a very definite knowledge of what is already being done by already established bodies. Women in a comfortable position will be better occupied in organising paid manual work for poor women thrown out of employment than in doing manual work themselves. It is essential that work should be linked up with national organisation, so as to avoid overlapping on the one hand and neglect on the other. It is essential, too, that help should not be offered in the form of charity, because this sort of help is of no use to self-respecting people, and further demoralises the already demoralised, the loafer, the cadger, the parasite.

Unemployed Women.

There are certain classes of the community whose needs will occur to everyone, and others who will be in danger of being overlooked. The wives and children of reservists will be remembered: let us remember their widowed mothers too. Men thrown out of employment will suffer and their families with them; it is greatly to be hoped that the Government will meet this certainty with an adequate and generous scheme. But we must see to it that the Government remembers the women and girls thrown out of employment and that, as far as possible, they too are not dealt with by doles, but are found employment. In France, M. Viviani has appealed to women to help get in the harvest; in England there is much work commonly done by men which could be every bit as well done by women.

Need for Trained Nurses.

The system of Reserve Nurses for the Army and Navy has resulted in the withdrawal of a considerable number of regular nurses from the hospitals, and as these are not over-staffed at the best of times, it seems likely that a considerable number of beds will have to be closed. We understand that special arrangements will be made in some hospitals for a short period of training at the present time. This would give the hospitals the advantage of an accession of willing workers, and would give some women, who could not give the usual time for training, an opportunity of acquiring experience.

Off the Strength.

This is not the time for a pedantic clinging to normal conditions. General feeling will therefore heartily approve the resolve of the Government that the families of non-commissioned officers and men who have married off the strength shall receive separation allowances and pensions in case of death. At least, this is to be so for the families of men "engaged in this war." The problem of the married soldier is a difficult one, and it will have to be tackled at some other time in a spirit which shall weigh many considerations hitherto neglected. For the moment everyone will feel that it would be criminal to neglect the families of men fighting for their country, and that the responsibility for them is essentially the Government's.

Suffragettes and Strikers Released.

Another piece of that generosity which is sound commonsense is the decision with regard to militant Suffragists. The Home Secretary said on Monday, in reply to a question in the House:—

"I have advised his Majesty to remit the remainder of the sentences of all persons now undergoing terms of imprisonment for crimes connected with the Suffrage agitation. That course has been taken without solicitation on their part and without requiring any undertaking from them. I have also advised his Majesty to remit the sentences of all persons convicted of assaults and other offences in connection with recent strikes. His Majesty is confident that prisoners of both classes will respond to the feelings of their countrymen and countrywomen in this time of emergency, and can be trusted not to stain the causes they have at heart by any further crime or disorder."

Many very sad hearts of women will join in this hope and trust. The Freedom League has resolved "to abstain during the war from all forms of active militancy," and is devoting its society to the relief of women and children. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst's organisation is also reported to be working for relief in the desperately poor districts of the East-end of London.

Accepting Facts.

We are not going to enter into any discussion as to the rights and wrongs of British intervention in this war. Great Britain has gone to war. This is a British paper. We accept the war as our condition for the time being, and our immediate concern is to bear ourselves as good citizens under this condition. We do not intend to discuss the speeches made on August 4th in the Kingsway Hall, but we renew the explanation given in our last issue, that it was *not* a meeting of the National Union, but a joint meeting, at which two members of the National Union Executive spoke. Neither of these expressed any opinion as to the diplomacy of Sir Edward Grey, nor as to whether, under the conditions existing at that moment, Great Britain should or should not join in the European war. Therefore some of the strictures subsequently passed on them were based either on ignorance or on misunderstanding. They spoke in general terms on the contrasted arbitraments of reason and of force. When people's minds are filled with burning emotions, they sometimes fail to receive the impression of what *is* said, substituting their own distortion, and being angry with that.

The meeting was originally called to support Sir Edward Grey in his efforts to preserve peace. Mrs. Fawcett, from the chair, announced that each speaker was responsible only for what she herself said. It is therefore inaccurate to make the National Union responsible for what was said by non-Union speakers.

The War Office as Employer and Consumer.

We have had occasion before now to draw attention to the way in which the War Office evades its responsibilities as an employer in getting some of its tailoring done through the medium of sweated women. Another aspect of employer's liability is that of the responsibility for the families of soldiers. In a debate in the House on August 8th, we see a further responsibility not properly faced, in the information offered by Mr. T. Davies, that Government buyers had offered £80 a ton for meat being sold at £65, and had paid 45 per cent. more for meat than other buyers were paying. This, if true, as Mr. McKenna suggested, of the War Office, means that it is (1) being extravagant with the nation's money, drawn from the pockets of the taxpayers and put into the pockets of meat merchants, and (2) raising prices for the general public.

Retail Prices.

To refrain from laying in stocks is part of our negative policy. But there is a considerable amount to be done in positive policy, too. One hopes that part of the work of Citizens' Committees everywhere will be to receive complaints of overcharging, and bring them to the notice of the authorities. No one ought to be tolerated who makes a fortune out of the war. The following list was published by *The Daily News* on Tuesday, of the maximum retail prices for cash agreed upon by the Advisory Committee of retail traders, to hold good till Friday. It expires on the day of issue of this paper, but we give it as an indication of how prices are going:—

	Aug. 11th. per lb.		Aug. 6th.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Granulated Sugar		4½		4½
Lump Do.		5		5
Butter (imported)	1	6	1	6
(Other qualities in proportion)				
Cheese (Colonial)		9½		9½
Lard (American)		8		8
Margarine		10		10
Bacon, by the Side:—				
Colonial or Continental	1	2	1	4
British	1	3	1	6

It will be seen that bacon actually fell during the week.

Anyone who has good reason to know that poor folk are being overcharged should communicate accurate particulars to the *Commercial Department of the Board of Trade, London, S.W.*

Housekeeping.

One of a woman's chief jobs, catering, is cheerful enough work when all she has to do is to buy plenty of food and happily watch her family demolish it. It becomes a dismal and desperate business when there is no money coming in and the last stick of furniture has been pawned. Women have been blamed because some "good housekeepers," in their professional enthusiasm, provisioned their families as for a siege. We think they did wrong. But we think that those who have so persistently preached that woman's place is the home (in the narrowest sense), and that woman's sphere is private, are largely to blame for these lapses in genuine patriotism. We are glad to see that many of our societies are appealing to their members not to buy more of the necessaries of life than they need.

The Paper.

The hearty thanks of the National Union are due to Miss Helen Ward, who has most kindly been editing The Common Cause since May 8th. The temporary editorship has now been taken over by Mrs. Swanwick. It has been found necessary to cut down the paper to the present small dimensions, but it is hoped to make it a useful record of the work of the National Union, and members are urged not to relax their efforts to increase the circulation. Ordinary political propaganda is suspended, but we want to keep in touch with the public and with each other. Above all, we want to emphasise the vital part which women have to play in a crisis like the present.

We have had one letter, and one only, suggesting that publication might be suspended so that we might all do Red Cross or Relief work. But we must keep alive ideas and ideals during the war, and no paper conducted by men will put forth women's view as women themselves will. We are one-half the nation: we must be heard.

Correspondence.

MRS. HARLEY'S APPEAL TO ACTIVE SERVICE LEAGUERS.

Dear Leaguers,—Our Active Service League was called into being for the purpose of out-door propaganda for Women's Suffrage, and has already done much effective work since its formation.

At this present international crisis, it has been decided to suspend the political work of the Union and to use our organisations for the help of sufferers from the industrial and economic dislocation caused by the war.

This, then, is the moment for our leaguers to come forward, one and all, and show themselves to be as efficient and zealous in relief work as they were proving themselves in active propaganda. I appeal, therefore, to the already organised groups to rally round their respective Group Leaders, who, in consultation with the Secretary of their Society, will determine the method of working, whether it may be a combined effort, or the drafting of individual leaguers to specialised work.

I appeal also to those members of the N.U. who have not as yet enrolled themselves in the Active Service League to do so now. All time given for the relief of those suffering from the conditions of war, whether combatants or non-combatants, will be counted as fulfilling the pledge which the Active Service Leaguer is called upon to take on enrolment.

I am emphatic on the importance of wearing the *Active Service League uniform,* for the following reasons :—

(1) Because it will testify to the fact, that whatever work we may be doing individually, and possibly for the time being co-operating with other bodies, we are working as Suffragists—and under the banner of the N.U.W.S.S.

(2) Because it will prove a constant reminder to ourselves and to others, that though putting aside for a time actual Suffrage work, we are bound by word and deed to testify to our Suffrage principles.

Finally, let us remember our motto—"There is no love without sacrifice"—and let us give freely of ourselves to our distressed fellow-citizens.—Your comrade and League Leader,

KATHERINE M. HARLEY.

LONDON SOCIETY'S WORK.

MADAM,—There are thousands of women willing and anxious to give their services to the nation, but who do not know how they can best be of use.

The London Society for Women's Suffrage has suspended its ordinary political work for the time being, and is preparing to use its entire organisation (including over sixty branches in different parts of London) and skilled workers for the immediate requirements of the national crisis. Their object will be to organise these voluntary workers in conjunction with the central authority and societies carrying on relief work.

The urgent need of some such organisation has been widely felt, and it is hoped that it will not only prove of assistance to the individual, but will serve to relieve the pressure caused by inquiries at the offices of those societies, which are already overwhelmed with the practical work they have in hand.

Any woman who applies to the Secretary, at 58, Victoria Street, S.W., will be directed to the work for which she is most suited, and where she can be advised as to some elementary training, should she desire it.

P. STRACHEY.

MRS. KENYON (Lyceum Club) appeals to all Suffragists to work for the relief of distress, and to militants to abandon militancy.

MRS. H. E. COBB (Wealdstone House) and many other correspondents, write in support of peace.

MISS AVERILL (Hove) suggests that Societies in the National Union should do their work as far as may be "on democratic and advanced lines," and should specially help women and children by (1) opening co-operative stores, (2) making garments to sell at cost price, (3) helping their own members, (4) turning offices into relief centres.

M. D. begs that the National Union will remain neutral on the question of peace or war for this country.

IMPORTANT.

EDITOR'S NOTE TO CORRESPONDENTS AND SECRETARIES.

It has been decided not to publish reports of work done before the outbreak of the war. Further, in order to save the time of our correspondents, it has been decided that news of relief work shall for the present come through National Union Headquarters. Secretaries are therefore urged to send news as full and interesting as possible to 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W., and selections from this will be published in this paper.

FOREIGNERS IN LONDON.

There are at present a large number of foreigners of all nationalities who are stranded in London, unable to return to their homes as their boats are not now sailing. The International Woman Suffrage Alliance hope to be able to do something to help these people, and on Wednesday there was a meeting at the offices—7, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.—of the representatives of the organisations who are in touch with foreigners.

The International Suffrage Alliance has already had many examples of the difficulties in which these women have been placed. In one morning, among others who have come for assistance, have been a young German girl who came to England a fortnight ago, and has now found that owing to the changed circumstances, it is impossible to obtain employment; an Indian woman who was visiting the country and, expecting to return shortly, had forwarded all her luggage to the Continent, and is left with no means at all; a woman who is in great distress, because the foreign firm in which she worked has closed and there is no prospect of her obtaining new employment, as well as many Americans, who have little money with them and are cut off from their country.

POLITICAL ECONOMY.

"When none were for a Party,
But all were for the State."

One does not remember anything in past history like the general attitude of the press and the Government towards the nation at large in this war. There is a great awakening of conscience with regard to non-combatants, and a realisation that they are indispensable; a realisation, too, that in war, as in peace, economic forces are of absolutely prime importance. Whatever the views of the leaders of thought and action may be in time of prosperity, it is remarkable that, in time of international calamity they have all become socialists. The State, indeed, becomes one, as representative of the whole nation. If the war be waged against a foreign enemy, for the safety, honour, and welfare of the people, the least that those can do who stay at home is to wage that other war against monopoly, sickness, vice, enforced idleness, and poverty. Even the most war-like know that food and health are the sinews of war. So we are all economists now—militarists and pacifists alike.

Our Political Economy, the "dismal science," is being turned into National Economics, by no means a dismal thing. The threefold division of the science into production, distribution and exchange is undergoing considerable modifications, and certain truths, hidden by the complexities of our social life, are now emerging in raised letters for the blind.

The vast, highly specialised and excessively sensitive structure of credit and exchange, upon which modern industry and commerce are based, has made the problem of immediate action a very difficult one for the Government, and we deprecate the highly inflamed appeals which some doubtless well-meaning people are making to ignorant crowds on questions of finance, such as money, indebtedness and so forth. An enlightened criticism, a healthy public opinion on these matters is all to be desired for the checking of grossly selfish manipulations. But it is absolutely impossible for an ordinary popular orator, even if he understood these questions himself, to make them comprehensible to a miscellaneous crowd in time of great political stress and personal suffering.

But there are certain very clear and definite necessities for a nation in time of war, and we propose to publish a number of articles which we hope will be of practical use at this time. It must be remembered that we shall have to learn new virtues to meet the new situation, and the chief new virtue that comfortable people will have to learn is that they must be content to live from hand to mouth. They must not use their position of privilege to buy up or to hoard, whether it be food, or fuel, or gold.

If we bear in mind, further, the chief objects to be aimed at in all we undertake, we shall do far more lasting good than if we yield to almsgiving impulses. Our two great objects are (1) to keep the whole people alive, in physical health and strength; (2) to preserve and strengthen the *moral* of the people.

These two objects are not really separate, of course, but we divide them, placing the one first, because the dreadful thing would be if we were so paralysed by the fear of doing harm, that we suspended help till too late.

We hope to have articles bearing upon the production of the necessaries of life and on their distribution. Further, since the best way of procuring the advantageous distribution of necessaries is to secure that as many people as possible shall have the means of buying necessaries, we hope to deal with the procuring of paid employment for the people. Lastly, since, at such a time of absolutely unprecedented dislocation, it is impossible that work and wages should be assorted so as to give remunerative employment to all, we hope to publish helpful articles on various ways of organising and administering relief without pauperisation.

As the organised strength of the National Union will be turned into all such activities, we hope to make THE COMMON CAUSE an expression of the activities of the Union as well as of women at large.

WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE GUILD.

The Women's Co-operative Guild is urging that the needs of motherhood require special attention at this time. Whatever general help is given, maternity introduces additional needs. Provision must be made not only for those whose families are entirely without employment, but for the wives of workers on short time. Free medical treatment, and special forms of nourishment should be at their disposal.

The Guild has asked all its branches to offer their help to the Municipal Committees, and it desires to urge the great value of appointing representatives of Industrial Women's Organisations on these Committees. Being themselves working women, the members of the Women's Co-operative Guild, of Women's Trade Unions, of Women's Labour League, and Railway Women's Guild, have a knowledge of the conditions of those for whom employment and help must be provided.

WIND AND TIDE.

BY E. RENTOUL ESLER.

Author of "The Wardlaws," "The Trackless Way," "The Way they Loved at Grimpat," "A Maid of the Manse," &c.

We greatly regret to be compelled for the present to suspend publication of our serial. We hope to insert later the remainder of the story, with a full synopsis of the preceding chapters.

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Literary Contributions *should be addressed to the Editor,* The Common Cause, 2, *Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C. The Editor, however, accepts no responsibility for unsolicited matter, and no manuscripts will be returned unless accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.*

All Business Communications *to be addressed to The Manager,* The Common Cause, 2, *Robert Street, Adelphi, W.C., and all* Advertisements *must reach the Office not later than first post on Tuesday. Advertisement Representative, S. R. Le Mare.*

Notice.—*This paper is obtainable at newsagents and bookstalls by midday on Friday. If any difficulty is found in obtaining it locally, please communicate with The Manager,* The Common Cause.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies being a body which exists solely to obtain the enfranchisement of women, holds no official view upon any other topic. Opinions expressed upon other subjects must not be regarded as necessarily those of the Union.

Woman, The Adaptable.

The Queen's Appeal to Women.

Buckingham Palace.

A National Fund has been inaugurated by my dear son for the relief of the inevitable distress which must be bravely dealt with in the coming days.

To this end I appeal to the women of our country, who are ever ready to help those in need, to give their services and assist in the local administration of the fund.

Mary R.

The Queen's Appeal appeared in the papers on Friday, August 7th. It will be a source of satisfaction to members of the National Union that, on August 6th, the National Union Executive had resolved to ask the 501 affiliated Societies of the Union to take precisely the course of action for which the Queen appeals. It has ever been part of the spirit of the Union that there was no desire among its members to separate themselves from the body of the people. On the contrary, members of the Union especially claim that women are of the people—for weal or woe, in honour or dishonour, one half of the human family. Therefore, in this national and international calamity, of which no one can see the end, there has been but one impulse—to put our whole organisation to the service of our country.

The resolution taken is that the "ordinary political work will have to be suspended," while the Union offers its organisation for the relief of distress. It is not the least part of our griefs that, in the welter of war, all the steady striving for social reform and more democratic institutions is swept away as by a great sea. But those who are disposed to lament that we can do no Suffrage propaganda now are in truth guilty of very shallow thinking; they have not yet truly grasped the spirit of the National Union. True, we cannot hold our ordinary meetings; true, we cannot hope to raise money for political work, when our suffering fellows have a claim on us for every available penny. Is there no other way of moving our men-people to the due recognition of their women-people?

Our world here in Great Britain is alive to the Suffrage movement. All have heard of it. Some are irritated by it. Many are favourable to it. By all we are and do now, we shall further or retard our enfranchisement. It is our proud belief that the lessons learnt in our Suffrage work, the method, the solidarity, the patience and control, will all contribute to making our particular woman's work more available and more precious than it was before it was disciplined by organisation.

We recall at this time the fatuous assertion of the minority of the Civil Service Commission (so oddly printed in the majority report) that women are inferior to men in "adaptability." When one thinks of the ordinary life of the average working woman, when one remembers the variety of work and capacity that is taken as a matter of course in these women, when one thinks how creditably on the whole most women turn their thoughts and habits from those of the self-supporting maiden to those of the wife, the housekeeper (with all her varied arts and crafts), those of the mother first of infants, then of growing boys

and girls, then of adults, and lastly those of the mother bereft of children, and very often of her life's mate—when one thinks of the miracles of adaptation which are uncomplainingly performed by the common woman in the common home, one knows what an ignorant generalisation this was. But now we are in a situation not common, and women will have further opportunity for showing whether they are adaptable or not.

Every woman in the land will have to housekeep on a greatly reduced income. Many women will have no income at all. Women thrown out of paid employment will have to try and find other employment for which perhaps they have had no training whatever. Women will have in many cases to do the work which men have left, to go to the war. Women whose husbands have gone must be father and mother in one. Here, indeed, is work and to spare, and the sentimentalists who talk of "weeping women," as if to weep were all that women were good for, are an offence to us. If there be tears in our eyes, it would be decent not to observe them, but to note the work we do in keeping the race while those we love are slaughtering each other. The Red Cross nurse does splendid service, and we are proud of her, but we are no less proud of the working housewife who keeps the home together or heroically endures a break-up worse than death; we are proud, too, of the women doctors battling with disease, of the women who will be stemming the flood of misery in all sorts of local organisations; of our clerks in offices and our honorary workers who are expending themselves in the organisation of relief.

We have to recognise that many thousands of women are still untrained. All the more precious are those women who are trained to productive work. We would appeal to all such women not to rush impulsively into what seems picturesquely heroic, but soberly to put their trained capacities to the highest use. Not only the paid labour market, but the world of philanthropic endeavour, is crowded at the bottom. Everyone of good will can be of use. But the real art of making the most of things is for the trained minds to organise and direct the untrained.

SOME USEFUL ADDRESSES.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W., and 50, Whitehall, S.W., is registering voluntary workers and sending unemployed persons to the nearest Labour Bureaux and employment agencies.

The London Society for Women's Suffrage, 58, Victoria Street, London, S.W., is also registering workers and giving information.

Government Announcements.

It is officially announced that Cabinet Committees, Public Departments, and other organisations are now dealing with the following matters arising out of the state of war, and that all communications on those subjects should be addressed as below:

Banking facilities, the moratorium—The Treasury, S.W.

Prices of necessaries, maintenance of supplies, production and continuity of employment, prohibition of certain exports—Board of Trade, S.W.

Works for prevention of distress and distribution of relief for distress—Local Government Board, London, Edinburgh, or Dublin.

Use of home-grown supplies of food stuffs—Secretary to the Committee, 12, Great George Street, S.W.

Engagement and distribution of unemployed labor—Board of Trade, Labour Exchange Department, Queen Anne's Chambers, S.W.

Employment on Fisheries—Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, S.W.

National war insurance—

(*a*) Shipping—Board of Trade, S.W.

(*b*) Cargoes—War Risks Insurance Office, Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.

Collection of Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund—3, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.

Offers of assistance from persons, associations, &c.—Board of Education, S.W.

Clothing for soldiers, sailors, their families, and persons in distress—Queen Mary's Needlework Guild, St. James's Palace, S.W.

Assistance to families of soldiers and sailors—Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, 23, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.

Ambulance and Hospitals—British Red Cross Society, 9, Victoria Street, S.W.

WOMEN AND THE WAR.

LIVERPOOL.

As a visitor to the city which had once been my home, and where I was first trained for Suffrage work, I was interested to find out, when war had been declared, in what way the women of Liverpool, Suffragists especially, were accepting their responsibilities and burdens in this terrible crisis.

On reading a public letter from the Lady Mayoress informing all who wished to help that a Central Bureau would be opened on Friday morning, I accordingly went to see if I could be of any use, and found the Bureau already admirably organised and full of women eagerly inquiring for work.

The Bureau is a large empty house put at the disposal of the Lady Mayoress by a woman citizen of the town. Each room is numbered as follows:—

No. I.—Office where offers of all kinds are registered.

No. II.—Room devoted to the cutting out of paper patterns.

No. III.—To their distribution.

No. IV.—A large room where garments of all kinds are cut out.

No. V.—The correspondence room, where voluntary secretaries are duplicating, typing, taking shorthand notes, &c.

No. VI.—The private office for the Lady Mayoress, officers in charge, and hon. treasurer.

No. VII.—The room where bandages are rolled.

No. VIII.—A large room devoted to the reception and sorting of contributions of all kinds.

Filled with admiration for this excellently planned Bureau, I found on inquiry that the chief officer-in-charge is a firm supporter of the Liverpool Suffrage Society, Dr. Mary Davies. The second officer-in-charge is Miss Jessie Beavan, Hon. Secretary to the West Lancs. Federation, and many supporters of Women's Suffrage are working in the different departments.

With regard to other activities, I was told that Miss Eleanor Rathbone is one of a Committee of five, appointed by the Lord Mayor, to organise methods of relief; and, in conjunction with officers of the County Territorial Association, is in charge of the relief work among the families of soldiers and sailors. Most of the local Woman Suffragists seem likely to be absorbed in this work or that of the Lady Mayoress' Bureau.

The Women Citizens' League, a body of nearly one thousand members, is arranging sewing circles and First Aid classes, making the Liverpool Suffrage Office their headquarters.

These activities are partly the result of a letter written by the Liverpool Suffrage Society to the Lord Mayor, offering experienced workers and organisers for the work of distribution of relief and investigation work.

The Chairman of the Liverpool branch of the Conservative Women's Franchise Association has offered to hold the classes for First Aid instruction. This is only the beginning. Many other schemes are being evolved in which Suffragists are to take a responsible and active part.

Liverpool women are losing no time in showing themselves worthy of citizenship, whether their claim be recognised or not.

A Liverpool Visitor.

BIRMINGHAM.

The Birmingham Society has offered its services to the Lord Mayor and has circularised its members. Already over 100 are enrolled and classified for various sections of work and are ready to supply workers to the central organisation as they are wanted. So far, only one woman is on the Executive of this organisation. She is Miss Matheson, of the Women's Settlement, with whom our Society is in close touch.

LEEDS.

Yorkshire is very badly hit by the war, so much of its trade being with Germany. Many of the members of our National Union Society are suddenly left without money or business, and they have hard work to do what they can for their employees. Mrs. Renton, the N.U. organiser for the West Riding Federation, is doing splendid work in connection with the Town's meeting. Women are pouring in to the Suffrage office to help, and no questions are asked as to whether they are Suffs. or Anti-suffs. If they will work they will be organised. The Leeds Society is accepting donations and forwarding them to the Mayor as from the Society. People are coming in who are not members but ask to be allowed to work as Suffragists.

Notes from Headquarters.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.
President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss K. D. Courtney.
Miss C. E. Marshall (Parliamentary).
Miss Emily M. Leaf (Press).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Auerbach.

Secretary:
Miss Crookenden.

Offices: Parliament Chambers, 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, S.W.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, London. Telephone Number—1960 Victoria.

Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee of the National Union met on the afternoon of August 6th and passed the following resolution :—

That the Executive Committee recognises that by the strict terms of the constitution of the N.U., the organisation can only be used for obtaining the parliamentary franchise for women. Further, it recognises that the summoning of a Council meeting to decide upon the action taken by the Union in a crisis would be essential if the circumstances made it possible.

The Executive Committee is convinced, however, that the summoning of a Council is out of the question at the present time :—

(1) Because railway travelling may at any time become difficult.

(2) Because it would not be justifiable to incur the heavy expense involved.

(3) Because, not only on account of the distress already beginning, but in the interests of the Union itself, it is urgent to take action at once.

The Executive Committee is of opinion that ordinary political work will have to be suspended during the war, and therefore wishes to lay before the Societies a scheme by which the National Union as a Union may make itself of use at this period of national crisis.

The scheme is as follows :—

(1) The National Union, as an organisation, shall make use of its services through the affiliated Societies for the relief of distress caused by the economic and industrial dislocation.

(2) The Executive Committee resolved to call upon the Societies of the Union to ally themselves with all the agencies for relief and comfort in this international calamity. Societies should at once send a letter to the Lord Mayor or Mayor or Chairman of Council in their area, placing at his disposal the services of the Society, and should ask that a member of the Committee of their Society should be invited to join any Relief or Citizen Committee he may be forming.

Where possible, the Secretary of the Society should at once start a register of members and non-members who are willing to help, and classify them according to the different kinds of work they are trained for or can best undertake. It is possible, of course, that substitutes may be wanted for the workers of all sorts who have been called away, and this should be borne in mind in classifying offers of help. Where the organisation of such a register is not possible, the Secretary of the Suffrage Society should simply offer the help of the Society and inform the members of the fact. Members should be asked to wear the Active Service League uniform as far as they possibly can, and, in any case, to wear their National Union badges. It is suggested that, if the Societies think it suitable in their locality, the following forms of help will be greatly needed :—

The care of young women thrown out of work; the care of foreigners left stranded in this country; the offer of houses for use as convalescent homes for men, women, and children, or for shelter if necessary.

It is important that a letter should be sent to the local press, notifying it of the action taken by the N.U.W.S.S.

Leaflet.

The N.U. is preparing a pictorial leaflet with a brief account of what the Union is doing, and it will be sent to the Societies as soon as possible.

"The Common Cause."

There is no reason why the circulation of The Common Cause should not be as large as, or larger than, it is at present, as it will become a valuable means of recording the activities of women at the present time. Societies are therefore urged not to relax their efforts for pushing the paper.

Work at Headquarters.

It is hoped that part of the offices and staff at Headquarters may be used as a bureau for receiving, classifying, and distributing offers of help. A large number of such offers have already been made spontaneously, either by letter or in person, and a regular system of card indexes has been started. The authorities have been approached on this subject, and if they accept help of this kind, the work may assume large proportions, which will occupy the greater part of our premises and staff.

Large Societies with offices and an adequate staff might in a similar way undertake the work of a labour exchange for voluntary workers. The Executive Committee will be very glad to hear what work is undertaken as an outcome of these suggestions, and feels confident that the Societies will realise the duty that rests upon us, as Suffragists, of taking our full share as citizens in the responsibilities of the nation in this crisis.

It must be understood that the above schemes are not intended to take the place of any work already undertaken by any Society.

National Union Shop.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies has opened a shop at 50, Whitehall, in the hope that it may prove useful for the registering of helpers and for giving information. People are not urged to come to the shop, but if any desire to help in the relief of distress and do not know where to go, every effort will be made to give them information. The National Union hopes to find out what work is needed and to send any trained workers who may apply to the right quarter.

With regard to untrained workers, they are making inquiry as to what kind of training is to be quickly obtained in such occupations as ordinary nursing and maternity nursing, &c. The National Union does not intend, however, to make any attempt to do the work done by the Labour Exchanges, and they will therefore direct any unemployed workpeople to the nearest offices under the Board of Trade.

It is difficult at the present moment to see how the work will develop, but doubtless there will be considerable additions to the activities suggested above.

The shop is to be the Headquarters of the Active Service League.

Treasurer's Notes.

Last week Mrs. Fawcett sent us a message calling on us to join together and do everything in our power to help our country in its time of trouble. This week The Common Cause tells us what has been the response to that appeal, what the National Union has planned to do, and is already doing.

Our power to carry out this work well lies in our organisation, and we must therefore do everything we can to preserve that power. At Headquarters we are retaining our full staff. On Monday, from Headquarters, in a few hours Miss Crookenden arranged to have a hundred shirts made for Sir Victor Horsley's Hospital before Saturday, and she was enabled by small gifts of money to give out some of this work to poor women who are already suffering acutely from the effects of the war on trade.

It is to meet the immediate need for this kind of practical relief work that we now appeal for Funds, certain that as the need is great so our members will give to the full extent of their power.

The total amount of money received up to date since November 1st, 1913, is £8,073 10s. 1d., and we are suspending publication of the latest list of subscriptions.

Active Service Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Miss Woodward	0	5	0
Mrs. Amy Badley	1	0	0
	1	5	0

ACTIVE SERVICE LEAGUE.

All members of the National Union engaged in the organised relief of distress are urged, if possible, to wear the Active Service League uniform, which consists of a dark green coat and skirt and a green felt hat with a badge. This uniform can be obtained from the following firms :—

Dark green coat and skirt, 2 guineas complete, from Messrs. Swan & Edgar, Piccadilly Circus, W.

Material for the same (any length cut), 2s. 6¾d. per yard, from South Devon Serge Warehouse, Teignmouth. (Carriage paid value over 10s.).

Hats (complete with badge), 4s. 9d. Ties in the colours of the N.U., 1s. 3d. Carriers (guaranteed waterproof), 3s. 9d. Badges: ribbon, 3d.; leather, 5d. To be had from Messrs. Parnell & Co., Wilton Road and Vauxhall Bridge Road, Victoria, S.W. (Carriage paid value over 5s.)

Societies are requested to send direct to these firms, enclosing remittance, as the above prices are strictly cash. Should the orders not exceed specified value, postage must also be remitted.

There may be a good many people who do not wish to buy any new clothes at the present moment, but it may be a comparatively easy matter for these to have an old coat and skirt dyed the regulation colours, and anyone desiring to do this can obtain a pattern from the National Union Headquarters. Our work will speak for itself, and the uniform should connect it with the organisation and the cause so dear to us all.

News from the Societies and Federations.

Response of the Societies.

The National Union Executive has received a most gratifying response to its appeal for help in the present crisis. An enormous number of Societies have written to say that they heartily approve of the scheme, and a remarkable proportion are already getting to work.

The following suggestions have been received: To start a scheme to enable a close connection with all "Friends" to be kept up, the "Friends" of Women's Suffrage to have the first claim in case of urgent need; to form Suffrage Sewing Guilds, in order to make maternity outfits, children's clothes, as well as clothing for the men, and to form committees to distribute these clothes; to look after the wives and children of the Reserves, and to give them individual help; and to form ambulance classes. Several Societies suggest that organisations should be established to regulate the food supply, and note any unfair rise in the prices, while a considerable number suggest work in connection with the Red Cross movement and the Voluntary Aid Detachment.

The Bristol Society, while urging Suffragists to be among the very first to come forward in assisting in the various schemes of work, writes: "It is a time above all others to make the general public understand what Suffragists mean by good citizenship, and it is perhaps possible that co-operation with other organisations might lead to a better understanding than independent action."

Work has already been undertaken by the following Societies: Liverpool, working through the medium of its Women Citizens' Association, is placing the services of that organisation at the disposal of the Mayor, and is forming a Voluntary Aid Detachment; this Society is urging its members to abstain from unnecessary luxuries, and also not to lay in large food stores, or make unnecessary calls upon the banks. Newcastle-on-Tyne has offered the Lord Mayor helpers for visiting, distribution of provisions and clothes, and assistance in providing shelter. Torquay will devote itself to the families of soldiers and sailors, and to the sick and wounded. Launceston Society is starting sewing parties, and is willing to fill up the gaps caused by trained nurses going to the front, and Dorking Society is using its organisation to give "Friends" elementary training in surgical nursing.

Warrington, Bournemouth, and Oxford Societies have all agreed to assist in any work which is to be organised in their districts.

London Society.

The London Society is actively engaged at its office at 58, Victoria Street, S.W., in carrying on a "London Society for Women's Service"—*not* a new society for administering relief and such-like, but rather a clearing-house or information and labour exchange for voluntary workers, so that when the demand for every kind of service becomes urgent, the women may be classified, trained, and fully prepared to meet it. This plan is being carried out in close touch with the N.U. and other schemes of a like nature. Many inquiries in regard to helpers are already reaching the office, and it is registering full particulars of everything that will be most needed, two principles being observed: (1) To avoid starting new things when an organisation already exists or is about to be started by the authorities; and (2) to avoid any rivalry or interference with openings for women's paid work. It is felt that the wider and more scientific the information is at the disposal of the Society, the more effectively these two principles can be observed; and it is therefore greatly hoped that people will supply information of all kinds.

A meeting was held on Saturday, August 8th, of the Branch Secretaries and other members of the Society, in order to discuss the possibility of the Branches also acting locally on the same lines, in accordance with Mrs. Fawcett's appeal. The meeting was enthusiastic in its desire to see this proposal carried out, and many valuable suggestions were made. As an outcome of the meeting it has been decided by the Executive Committee to work through the local Branches in connection with the Citizen Relief Committees, &c. Active steps in this direction have already been taken by some of the Branches and members of the Society in the different localities, notably in Hampstead, Ealing, Islington, and Richmond, and among those who have already given their support to the scheme are Mrs. Fawcett, Winifred, Countess of Arran, Lady Gladstone, Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, and Mrs. Tennant.

Space forbids the detailed description of the various methods of work of which knowledge is being gained, but mention should be made of a specially effective one originating with a member of the Ealing Branch, which public authorities in various parts might do well to adopt, and which will be explained to anyone interested on application at the office.

Scottish Federation.

An Urgency Committee is to be held on August 12th to consider how best the Federation's organisation might be used to help the nation's immediate needs. Meantime the Suffrage Summer School has been given up. A staff of twenty-five excellent lecturers had been secured, many students had booked, and the complete syllabus promised to be no less attractive than that of last year. At the time of writing it is under discussion whether the school shall still be held in an altered form, in Edinburgh, as a training ground for the work of material and medical relief. From the Societies, news comes of the holding of work parties, and of cookery classes, and of aid being given in a corporate or individual capacity to the local Red Cross and V.A.D. In Shetland, the Suffrage Society has initiated (under Miss Bury's lead) the organisation of medical relief work. Money contributions are to be given by the local Societies in certain places to the local relief funds.

Manchester Federation.

The Manchester and District Federation Executive met last week to consider the work to be undertaken during the present national crisis. It was unanimously agreed to carry out the recommendation of the N.U. in helping the sufferers from the economic and industrial dislocation caused by the war, and Societies in the Manchester Federation area were urged to get into communication with the local Relief Committees as soon as possible.

The Manchester Society report that they are offering the whole of their offices and trained staff to the Manchester and Salford Relief Committees as a central office, to enrol, sift, and allot the women voluntary workers (Suffragist and non-Suffragist) to the various agencies, which will be in need of such help at the present crisis.

Arrangements are now being made for organising this side of the work, and helpers are already beginning to offer their services. Several of the other Societies have intimated that they are beginning work immediately, and we are hoping that towards the end of the week the work in this area will be well in hand.

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